

remained unrecorded, except by the drawings and notes of the late Mr. Joseph Gandy, A.R.A., in the possession of Mr. C. J. Richardson, engraved in Mr. Smith's book, and now annexed to our notice. These records will prove most acceptable to our readers, while, at the same time, they add to the regret that is felt by all reflecting and right-minded persons, that "a building, possessing such claims on the national protection, and on the sympathy of those who were peculiarly constituted its defenders and guardians, should have been consigned to destruction, in a manner alike disgraceful to the projectors of the selfish and heartless job, and to the legislature of the day, which passively tolerated such Vandalism."

The ground-plan, given above, shows the church in its perfect state. It consisted of a nave, a chancel, and north and south aisles, with two square towers, which are yet standing. The nave was separated from the side-aisles by four square pillars on each side, supporting pointed arches, the pillars being 3 feet 10 inches by 2 feet 9 inches. The chancel was separated from the nave by one large and two smaller semicircular arches. It is to these arches, and their columns, including portions of the side-walls, represented with a dark shade in the plan, that I would direct attention.

The annexed cut represents an elevation, showing the architectural peculiarities of the columns, the arches, and the walls. The arches were turned with Roman tiles, and the walls banded with three courses of the same, the upper and lower, in each wall, consisting of four rows, the centre of five; the walls are described as of rough stone. Unfortunately, the mortar, an important evidence in determining pure Roman masonry, is not described; but there is every other requisite for referring this remarkable portion of the church to the Roman epoch. A question may at once be anticipated, as to the probability of this more ancient part of the church being constructed by the Saxons, *more Romano*. But we possess no remains of Saxon architecture so perfectly copied after the Roman style as these would be, could they be considered as the work of Saxon masons, under the guidance of the ecclesiastics, at a period when specimens of Roman buildings existed as types and models. There is a neatness and finish in the masonry which is wanting in the instances of Saxon work with which we are familiar: the courses of tiles are remarkably regular, and, from a drawing by Bartlett, published by Virtue, they are represented as being carried along the side wall, marked dark in the plan, with the same regularity. The columns also, harmonizing with the arches and walls, present features which must, I submit, decide the appropriation of the work to the Roman period.

An enlarged view of one of the columns is given in the annexed cut, in which those peculiarities marking them as Roman are more clearly shown. The capital,\* the cable-pattern mouldings, and the increased diameter of the bottom of the shaft of the columns, appear to admit of no objection to the early epoch to which I assign them. For comparison of the peculiar character of the capitals of the columns, a portion of an architectural ornament on a Roman sarcophagus in the collection at Ince Blundell, is here given.

All must feel regret that this church, hallowed as it is by many most interesting associations should have been despoiled and demolished. Mr. Smith, in the course of his valuable volume, very properly condemns the destruction of our ancient national monuments, and urges the importance of religiously preserving them.

#### IMPROVEMENT OF DWELLINGS.

We learn from the *Labourer's Friend* that Mr. Roberts's Essay on the "Dwellings of the Labouring Classes," has been "Traduit et publié par ordre du Président de la République," with some prefatory remarks, of which we give a portion:—

This work is addressed to all good men, to all who love their country. It is offered to them as a sign of the lively interest which is

\* Mr. Charles Barry suggests that the capital may possibly have been intended for bronze foliated ornaments of the Corinthian order.

awakened in another country for the amelioration of the condition of the labouring classes; it is offered as an example which may inspire them to imitation. To provide for labourers in the country, as well as in towns, dwellings well lighted, well ventilated, dry and clean—such is the first problem to be solved. We do not hesitate to say, that long since this problem would have been solved if every person was fully convinced that these conditions once realised, a multitude of the causes of sickness, of misery, of disorder, and of corruption would disappear. Who is the physician ignorant of the fact that the want of light—vitiated air—dampness and surrounding dirt, are as many causes which, singly, and with much greater certainty when united, contribute more than everything else to shorten life and to render it miserable, by inflicting on those who are exposed to them a multitude of personal and hereditary infirmities? Who is the moralist who does not admit that the human soul itself becomes degraded under the prolonged influence of such conditions? Who is the statesman who has not sighed to see all the hospitals and the prisons overcrowded with the wretched people which these causes have been the means of producing? Yet it is almost always easy to obtain for rural dwellings the necessary amount of light. With regard to dwellings in towns, this is a feature most deserving the attention of the commissioners charged by the authorities with this important oversight. The regular renewal of the air in dwellings is a new problem for science,—it has never approached it. But is not sufficient to propose such a problem, in order that it should give to it speedily a happy and practical solution? In reference to dampness,—the healthiness of dwellings is everywhere a desideratum, even in the houses of the middle classes. Let us, then, direct the attention of our young architects towards this important subject. It is a great honour to be judged worthy of going to Rome; it is a great merit, in returning, to bring back the plans of some palace destined to become the ornament of our cities; but he who finds or who invents the art of driving away the humidity which renders unhealthy so large a number of the dwellings of our town and country labourers, will have gained a right to the gratitude of the country, and will have prepared for himself a source of imperishable satisfaction. In the meantime let good men, especially let young men, teach the workmen by whom they are surrounded to set some value on those habits of cleanliness which are the first steps taken in the path of progress towards well-being.

#### THE NEW HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT IN REGARD TO SOUND.

THE experimental wooden roof here has been altered, and now has a better appearance than at first. The sloping sides are made to terminate level with the transom of the windows, so as to leave one light in height complete beneath. The galleries have been made wider, temporarily, so as to contain two rows of seats instead of one.

The select committee appointed to inquire into the accommodation in the new House of Commons have reported, "That the plan submitted by Mr. Barry, and attached to their report, providing accommodation for 318 members on the floor of the House, or for 338 members (if seats be provided in the south gallery), and for 150 members in the side galleries, allowing 20 inches for each member, will, in the opinion of the committee, be an improvement on the present House, and afford adequate accommodation for the transaction of public business, and that the probable expense of making the alterations proposed will be £8,000."

I must beg leave to observe, that I think it is hardly fair to censure Mr. Barry for the difficulty experienced in hearing distinctly in the new Houses of Parliament: as long as the present arrangement of seats is adopted, by placing them on the sides instead of the centre of the room, the same inconvenience will always be experienced according to the nature of sound and acoustics. There is nothing different in the form of the Houses to other large public rooms, where the seats are arranged

in the middle of the room, and the speaker or orator in the centre. In a long narrow room, the seats being placed on the sides, and the speaker at one end, the parties opposite would hear pretty distinctly, whilst those at the end would scarcely hear at all, unless great silence prevailed; and the same observation would apply to persons placed at the extreme ends of the room in a gallery, which has been found to be the case in the House of Lords as well as the Commons, as the reporters will verify.

As long as the present arrangement is adopted, the orator should be placed nearly in the centre of the side seats to be heard; but the most perfect arrangement is the one previously mentioned. Persons do not generally complain in our churches and public halls of the difficulty of hearing, and why is this but because the speaker is placed in the centre, or a little on one side and the public in front? If an arrangement of a similar nature could be adopted in the new Houses, there would be no necessity to destroy the architecture of the rooms by putting in a false ceiling. Perhaps, on consideration, many scientific men, who are more capable of entering into the merits of the case than myself, might arrive at the same conclusion. I only aim at putting the matter in a plain practical way, that no illiberal or unjust censure should be passed on the architect, who has quite enough to contend against.

I trust that some of your enlightened correspondents may be induced to throw a little light on this important subject.

W. W.

#### EXHIBITION OF MANUFACTURES AT ROYAL DUBLIN SOCIETY'S.

THIS exhibition is at present open, and, according to our correspondent, is superior in every respect to preceding ones, and is attracting more than ordinary interest. In all the various departments of manufactures there is improvement manifest.

The specimens of linens, silks, muslins, lace, woollen drapery, hosiery, &c. are good. There is a great variety of fancy and industrial work. In cabinet making, Messrs. Richard Turley, Birmingham, and Messrs. George Austin, Patrick Beskey, William Lyburn, and Arthur Jones, Dublin, excel. The carving from the patent machine works of Messrs. Taylor, London, attracts considerable attention, also the specimens by Isaac Whitehead, Nicholas Lombard, and Cornelius De Witout, Dublin, and by Messrs. Prosser and Hadley, London. The lustres, &c. by William Mooney, Henry Gregg and Son, and James Hawkins, Dublin, are fine specimens. The chimney-pieces by Robert Hibson, and the mosaic table tops by James Hoban, both of Dublin, are noticeable. Mr. John Ridgway, of Stafford, exhibits a model of a patent brick and tile kiln for saving fuel and improving the goods, which reflects credit on the ingenuity of the patentee. The testimonial to Sir Moses Montefiore, designed by Sir George Hayter, modelled by Mr. E. Bailey, R.A., and executed by Hunt and Roskell, London, is one of the leading features of the exhibition: it is 3½ feet high, and weighs 1,319 ounces of silver. The top is surmounted by a figure of David conquering the lion and rescuing the lamb: the four sides respectively represent the landing of Sir Moses Montefiore at Alexandria, the audience granted by the Sultan, the liberation of the prisoners, and Sir Moses offering thanks at Bevis Marks. The Irish Engineering Company exhibit a wrought-iron safety railway wheel, composed of two pieces only (the wheel and the tyre), obviating the necessity for rivets. There is a great variety of machinery, engines, &c. the principal of which are, a locomotive engine by Grendon and Co., Drogheda; a friction railway buffer, by Wilfred Haughton; Columbian printing press and calendar for paper making machine, by Courtney and Stephens, Dublin; a small steam engine, by A. Oldham, Rathgan-road, a boy fourteen years of age and self taught. Mr. Robert Stephenson, C.E., London, exhibits models of the Conway tubular and Great Britannia bridges. There are also models by A. Mosley C. Papworth of designs for monuments, and proposed improvements to Carlisle Bridge—J. Farrell, architect—by D. Cuthbert.